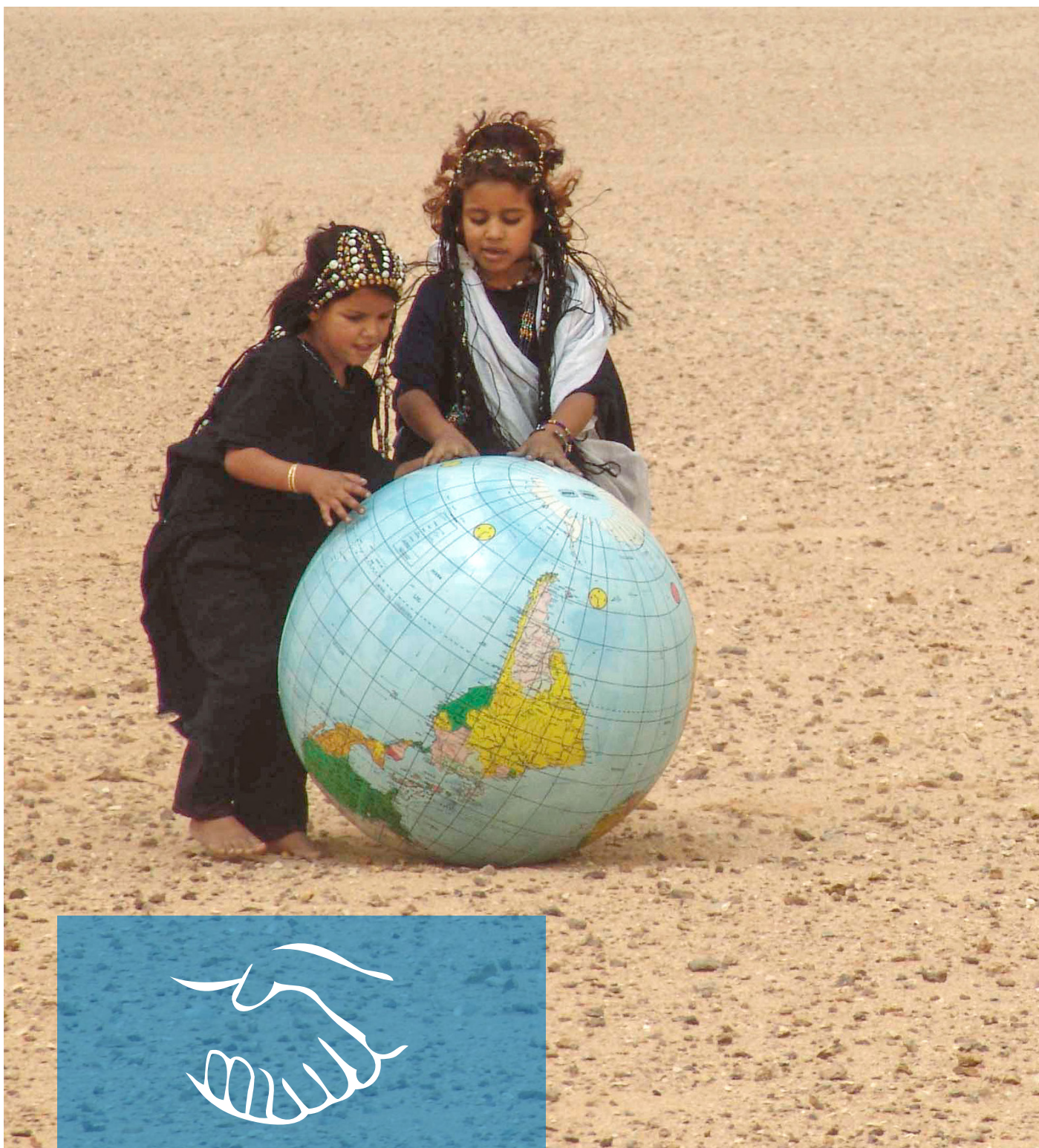


# 2023

**swiss relief**  
to restore, bridge, encourage & empower



# ANNUAL REPORT

## Editorial

Broad Spectrum of Humanitarian Aid

## Country reports

Central Asia | Mauritania  
Tajikistan | Other Countries

# EDITORIAL



Women in Tajikistan receive official diplomas after completing their training.

## Dear Donor

In a world where crises and disasters are unfortunately commonplace, the impact of humanitarian aid is evident in many ways. The reports from Central Asia, Tajikistan, the West Bank and other countries reveal a broad spectrum of challenges as well as measures to alleviate suffering and promote long-term solutions.

In Central Asia, food insecurity continues to rise due to the activities of Islamic extremists. SwissRelief especially supports widows, people with disabilities and internally displaced persons through food parcels. The team in Tajikistan provides a safe environment for women and children who are victims of human trafficking and gender-based violence. SwissRelief enables them to establish a sustainable living through rehabilitation programs, legal and medical support, as well as vocational training.

SwissRelief is responding to the deteriorating economic situation in Mauritania by providing food for malnourished children and offering literacy courses to provide long-term aid. In the West Bank, SwissRelief supports educational facilities that strengthen children's self-esteem and teach them constructive problem-solving skills in the midst of political conflict. Additionally, food vouchers are distributed to needy families, which helps them to survive whilst also strengthening the local economy. In Morocco, SwissRelief's partners helped quickly and efficiently after the severe earthquake by providing basic needs such as food, shelter and medical care.

The reports below reflect the broad spectrum of humanitarian work done by SwissRelief, ranging from immediate crisis response to the provision of long-term solutions. The reports show the importance of giving affected people the tools they need in order to shape their own lives. And that is only possible thanks to your generous donations. Thank you for helping to make the world a little bit better!

Your SwissRelief ●



Nathanael Regez, President SwissRelief



## Where

Active in 14 countries in the Middle East, North Africa, Central America and Asia.



## Who

Over 20 projects implemented by local partners.

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## Whom

Over 110,000 people helped every year.



## How

on disaster relief, reconstruction, literacy, education, networking, aid distributions, advocacy, refugee relief, food, water, MED/start-ups, medical care, etc.

# CENTRAL ASIA Food and Medical Aid



Children at a food distribution

The situation in central Asia is continually deteriorating due to the activities of extremist groups. Companies are closing, civil servants and pensioners are not being paid, the economy is in ruins and unemployment is high. The restrictions on women in the labor market have deprived many families of their last source of income. Many families can not even afford to buy enough food although it is available on the market. As a result, 15.3 million people are currently affected by acute food insecurity – especially widows, people with disabilities and internally displaced persons. Approximately every third child in the country is malnourished. SwissRelief supported these population groups with the distribution of food parcels. In 2023, over 25,200 families received food for one month as well as blankets and winter clothing for children.

Like her two brothers and three sisters, Nuur can no longer go to school. She expresses her gratitude for the help she received: “Fortunately, we received enough food from these kind people today. I am

so happy that, for a few days, I don’t have to go begging and can play with my sisters.”

Many people can no longer afford to see a doctor. This makes the two clinics which SwissRelief has been supporting for many years all the more important. In the last year, over 110,000 patients, the vast majority of them women and children, received free or low-cost treatment

in the internal medicine department, at the dentist, in the gynecology department, in the children’s and maternity wards, and in the large eye clinic. Many illnesses were recognized in time and treated with free medication from the drugstore. In addition, 300 patients per day were educated about general health and nutrition issues. ●



A happy man after an eye surgery

# TAJIKISTAN Women and Children at Risk

SwissRelief supports women and children who find themselves in dangerous situations or became victims of human trafficking or gender-based violence. The local partners offer them a safe environment, practical and emotional support, as well as vocational training so that they can create a sustainable livelihood for themselves.

Women can live in the safe place for three to six months, where they undergo rehabilitation. In 2023, the women's shelter was extensively renovated and new equipment, furniture and sanitary facilities were purchased. The improvement of the infrastructure helps the beneficiaries feel like members of a large family. Since the project began in 2012, 296 women, 63 youths and 281 children have lived in the shelter. In 2023, there were 22 women, six youths

and 32 children. In addition, the team interviewed over a thousand women and girls in the last year and carried out basic research on the topics of human trafficking and domestic violence in the target group.

The three training centers in Dushanbe were fully equipped with new furniture and sewing machines with the support of UNFPA. In the two other centers in Vahdat and Rudaki, the curricula for the training courses were revised. In 2023, 715 women were trained in vocational skills and 141 received official diplomas. Psychological treatment, legal assistance, English classes and business training were also offered and the team conducted more than 70 awareness-raising seminars among women, men, managers, doctors and others. ●



Two women hold their new diplomas in their hands.

**In 2023, 715 women were trained in vocational skills and 141 received official diplomas.**

# MAURITANIA Awareness for Human Rights



Children who are severely affected receive food supplements. Their parents are especially grateful.

The name of SwissRelief's partner organization translates as "mutual help and solidarity for the people." And that is exactly what SwissRelief is doing in Mauritania. Unfortunately, the economic situation in the country continues to deteriorate. The partner organization has reacted to the difficult current situation. For example, it provided food for 200 malnourished children in a poor district. The regular distribution of supplementary food was carried out

through four distribution centers. The organization also identified 300 families in need to provide them with food.

In order to provide long-term, sustainable help, the organization also ran a literacy course. The course enabled 90 people to learn the basics of reading and writing. The organization also supported 25 families living in extreme poverty. Through the creation of micro-projects, they were able to escape poverty. The next

step for the aid organization is the construction of a community center in which it can store relief supplies, from where it can coordinate aid distributions, and where it can hold trainings. The land has already been purchased and initial construction work has begun.

Another partner of SwissRelief helps people as a lawyer and organizes campaigns to sensitize the population about various issues. These campaigns inform people about the basics of human rights and the need to protect minorities. He also draws attention to the dangers of hate speech on social media and provides strategies for dealing with it. As a result, five people affected by hate speech were helped in a practical way: They were temporarily taken to safety in a different location, where they lived until it was safe for them to return. ●



A woman is trained to prepare menus to order. She can do this at home with the appropriate equipment. Home sales now generate enough income for her and her family.

# WEST BANK Promoting Education



For many years, SwissRelief has been supporting an educational facility in the West Bank with a kindergarten, elementary school and leisure center. Their commitment to reconciliation was made all the more relevant by the outbreak of the war. The school was expanded by one class in 2023. It offers an environment

that promotes self-esteem and creativity in children and teaches them conflict resolution skills. The schools also distributed food vouchers to hundreds of needy families in their area. This not only enabled the families to buy food, but also ensured that many smaller stores were able to remain open. ●

## ALGERIA Income through Fruit Trees

Almost every summer, forest fires rage to varying degrees in the mountainous region on the north coast of Algeria. Last year, several families in an agricultural area lost all of their fruit trees as a result. The trees fell victim to the flames. The concerned families lost their means of income in one fell swoop. SwissRelief's partner resolutely intervened and helped five families to buy new trees, plant them and reforest. This help for self-help quickly led to a sustainable solution for the families.

The economic crisis and rising prices are making life even more difficult for poor families. Added to this are unresolved ethnic and religious conflicts as well as the political tension since the Hirak protests and the change of government in 2019. ●



# MOROCCO Earthquake Relief

Food parcels are ready for distribution.



When the earth shook very severely in southern Morocco on September 8, 2023, thousands of people lost their lives, thousands of families lost their homes and thousands of workers lost their sources of income. SwissRelief's partners were immediately on the scene and within a few hours they distributed water, non-perishable foods, blankets, mattresses, medicines, hygiene products and/or cash.

In a second phase, they provided tents in remote mountain regions. In a further phase, houses are renovated or rebuilt. The solidarity of the Moroccan people was overwhelming and it was impressive to see how well the authorities cooperated. ●

# SAHARAWIS Tanks for Drinking Water



A filled water tank with a fence around it

Obtaining and storing drinking water in the desert is a major challenge. Groundwater is difficult to access and of poor quality, sometimes even harmful to one's health. Drinking water therefore has to be brought in from outside at great ex-

pense. The usual metal water tanks are unsuitable for storage as they rust quickly. An inexpensive solution are large plastic bags that can store hundreds of liters of drinking water. These must be protected from damage by goats through

a small fence and they must be covered with tarpaulins to protect them from UV radiation. Last year, SwissRelief's partner helped 30 families replace their old, rusty tanks with new plastic ones. ●